

FRANK CARPENTER SEES THE FAMOUS RUSSIAN FAIR AT NIJNI NOGOROD.

Oriental City's Ten Thousand Expositions Sell Half a Billion Dollars' Worth of Goods Annually—Nijni Has Two Hundred Thousand Merchants and Seven Thousand Establishments—A Walk Through the Bazaars Where American Products Are on Exhibition.

Special Correspondence of The Sunday Republic.
Nijni Novgorod, July 25.—The great fair of Nijni Novgorod is now at its height. It is frequented daily by 200,000 buyers and sellers from all parts of Russia and Western Asia, and its exchanges amount to \$5,000,000 every twenty-four hours. They will aggregate \$200,000,000 or \$300,000,000 during the time of the fair, and if our American exporters had their goods here on sale our trade with Russia might be increased to an enormous extent.

Indeed, the United States should study the fair of Russia and lay out a trade route for the American invasion along the lines of their meeting.

This country does business after the style of the Middle Ages.

It has more than 10,000 fairs, to which the people come from all quarters to buy and sell, and if our American goods could be placed in them our factories should have to employ extra hands.

I have the figures of the exchanges of these fairs before me.

They are furnished by the Treasury Department of Russia and may be considered correct.

Central Russia has 2,000 fairs every year, with exchanges amounting to \$200,000,000, which, if I remember correctly, is as great as the foreign trade of all China a few years ago.

Eastern Russia has 2,000 fairs, with returns of \$200,000,000, and Little Russia 2,000, with a sale of more than \$200,000,000 worth of goods.

In Southern Russia there are 35 fairs annually, with \$50,000,000 of exchanges, in Middle Russia 2,200, with \$5,000,000, and in the Baltic region, 1,500 fairs, with a business of \$3,000,000.

Away up along the Arctic Ocean there are 400 fairs, which do a business of more than \$7,000,000, and in Siberia the fairs already number 500, with annual returns amounting to \$25,000,000.

In Central Asia the exact number of fairs is not known, but the sales amount to \$20,000,000 a year, and, in addition to this, there are 1,900 fairs in Poland, and some in other parts of the Empire.

All together, \$200,000,000 worth of business is annually done in the Russian fairs alone.

MANY OF THESE FAIRS HAVE THEIR SPECIALTIES.

I describe those of Nijni Novgorod, the greatest of all, farther on in this letter.

The fair at Irbt, in the Government of Perm, is held during the month of February. It is largely frequented by people from Siberia and China.

It handles tea, silk, camel's hair and goat's wool from China and Central Asia, and furs, hides, honey, butter and oil from Siberia, as well as all kinds of wares from Russia in Europe.

Its sales amount to \$40,000,000.

There is another fair in the same region of about the same character, which sells over \$2,000,000 worth of goods, and one known as the fair of Karavan, not far from here, which deals almost exclusively in metals, especially as iron and cast iron. Its annual exchanges are about \$1,000,000.

There is a big June fair not far from here, which deals chiefly in timber, and there are fairs in the South devoted to live stock, to which whole droves of horses are brought in from the plains for sale.

There are a vast number of agricultural fairs, where our farm implements could be sold in great quantities, and the Northern fairs have large sales of fish and furs, cod liver oil and such things.

I describe of giving you a vivid description of the fair of Nijni Novgorod.

It is one of the wonders of the world and is a greater wonder every year.

It was predicted that the Transiberian road would kill it, but it is growing, and its exchanges are greater than ever.

Think of a city with a population of 200,000 merchants, and a business far only about a month every year, and that a business running into the hundreds of millions.

Think of a city which has grown up to accommodate this business and which for one month is full of life and trade, but for the rest of the year is as dead as a graveyard, and you have some idea of Nijni Novgorod.

The word "fair," however, gives you a poor idea.

It makes you think of tents and booths and ragged buildings with flags flying. You imagine circuses, fairs, shows and merry-go-rounds.

Nijni Novgorod has all these, but they are on the outskirts. The real town is more like a substantial wholesale business center trading quietly and without noise.

The fair city is located on a narrow tongue of land, where the great rivers Volga and Oka join.

It is washed on each side by water, and the rivers for miles are filled with shipping, loading and discharging goods.



OFF WASHINGTON

WE COME TO THE BELL BAZAAR

UNLOADING GOODS AT NIJNI, THE GOODS ARE TAKEN OFF ON RUDE WHEELBARROWS

THE GREAT NIJNI FAIR AND ITS BRIDGE OF BOATS

There are something like ten miles of wharves covered with merchandise of all kinds, and carts and wagons moving to and from them into the city.

PAIR SITE A CITY OF STONE AND MORTAR.

The fair city is a real city, not one of boards and canvas. It is a city of stone and mortar, of 1,000 stores in good business buildings.

It has miles of streets paved with cobblestones, and has street cars, electric lights, theaters and big hotel-domed churches full of treasures, presided over by long-haired priests in gowns of gold brocade.

It has also a city hall and police to keep it in order. It has its stock exchange and its board of management and, in fact, everything that you will find in a great business center.

Notwithstanding this, the city is alive only about one month of the year, and that month is now.

Suppose we go across the Oka and look at it.

We are now in Nijni Novgorod proper, a town of about 100,000 people, a mile or more away from the fair. We are on a high hill, separated from the fair city by the wide and fast-flowing river. This part of Nijni is the government of the Province and has a large trade.

We stroll down to the Bridge of Boats, which connects this city with the fair proper, and make our way in and out through the endless caravan of goods and people which is always passing to and from it.

There are hundreds of Russian wagons pulled by shaggy horses with high yokes over their necks and driven by shaggy Russian peasants in red shirts and trousers and yellow straw shoes.

Their wagons are loaded with all sorts of goods.

There at our right is a caravan of hides, the horses tied to the wagons in front and their drivers asleep on the skins.

Behind comes a train of wagons containing hogheads of wine from South Russia, and here at the left is one of great plates of steel.

See those carts going by now. They are filled with skin-covered boxes marked with characters in Chinese.

They contain tea, and have come here on camels from China via Kiahkta and Hankow.

Then there are great loads of cotton, of wool, hardware and tools of all kinds.

This stream of wagons flows on from daybreak until late in the evening all the fair through.

Watch out for those droshkies! The horses are on the dead run and the fat droshky drivers clad in blue broadcloth stretch out their arms as though to push on the reins and make them go faster. Some of the carriages contain Russian

officials and we smaller men should keep out of the way.

VOLGA RIVER IS 2,300 MILES LONG.

Stop here in the middle of the bridge and look at the river.

We are crossing the Oka.

The Volga you can see further down the river. It is a mile wide at this point. It has a vast trade and is navigable for hundreds of miles.

You can see something of the shipping by the boats in the Oka. They are of all kinds and they come from all parts of the Empire, from St. Petersburg to the Caspian Sea.

The Volga is connected with St. Petersburg by canal and above Nijni alone it has 14,000 boats employing 300,000 men, while from here to the Caspian there are, it is estimated, 8,000 more manned by 300,000 sailors and boatmen.

Over there on the banks you can see them unloading the steamers.

The goods are taken off in rude wheelbarrows by shaggy-haired peasants in long boots and clothes of red cotton.

They wear caps or go bareheaded and also barefooted; they look dirty and savage.

Here they carry great boxes and bales on saddles on their backs, like the porters of Constantinople, and there they drag along iron rails or roll boxes over and over.

The barges are filled with mountains of cotton and wool. There are iron and steel yards and great pens filled with all sorts of goods.

There are cars and wagons moving this way and that.

The carriages are as thick as they were on the bridge and foot passengers through the sidewalks and streets.

The most of the people are Russians, but we now and then see Persians, Armenians, Turks and Chinese.

There is one street devoted to the stores of the Orient, where are rugs, perfumes and all sorts of Turkish goods.

There is another devoted to Persian wares and another where the things are altogether Chinese.

The streets are wide. They are lined with two-story brick buildings with windows of glass, and shops fitted up like our stores at home. Many of them have porches in front, so that you can walk from store to store, keeping out of the sun.

Nearly every business has its own section.

At the right as we leave the bridge are long streets devoted to metals and hardware. Great piles of iron, lead, copper and other things lie out on the sidewalks. Most of the business is wholesale, and single transactions often amount to thousands of dollars.

Here are great piles of chains of all sizes, sheets of lead and copper as big as a tablecloth, iron bars and leaden pipes piled up like cordwood.

This street runs along the Oka, and the stores upon it are filled to overflowing.

The Russians make excellent iron, and they can do anything in metal.

Last year the Empire produced about 8,000,000 tons of pig iron and 1,000,000 tons of rolled steel of various kinds.

RUSSIAN TOOLS, RAZORS, SCISSORS AND KNIVES.

This same section is devoted to hardware. In some blocks we find cutlery stores containing knives as fine as any made in Sheffield, as well as excellent razors, scissors and all sorts of tools.

There are great steel mills not far from Nijni, and there are works making farm tools in many parts of the Empire.

We sell the Russians some agricultural machinery, but they make more at home. Their output of farm tools last year amounted to \$5,000,000. They manufacture shovels, spades, rakes and all sorts of scales, as well as larger machinery of various kinds.

The Germans are more important as competitors than we are, and we find their goods mixed in almost every store.

None of the tools are as well finished as ours, and every kind of our improved farm machinery could be sold here at a profit.

Passing around the Cathedral, which is near the hardware section, we come to the bell bazaar.

This is a section which sells church bells of all kinds, from the size of a farm dinner bell to some almost as big as a haystack. The bells shine like silver. They are made of bronze and white metal, the larger ones costing thousands of dollars.

There are more than a dozen great stores of this kind, the merchants of which are here to do business with the representatives of churches and chapels all over the Empire.

The Russians are very religious, and they spend much money on bells. Every church has several, and the country all told has more to its population perhaps than any other country of the world.

During a recent visit to this bazaar I saw a group of long-haired, long-gowned priests making a purchase. They were testing the bells, and as the men struck them, the sound went forth like that of a cannon.

I asked the merchant his prices and found that the bells were sold by the pound, whereupon I bought ten pounds or so to ring for dinner on a farm I have in the country at a cost of \$2.

Speaking of dinner, I take mine here at the Restaurant Rousle, near the public garden in the Fair City.

It costs me just 10 cents without drinks and a splendid orchestra plays while I eat.

CONCERT VARIED BY VAUDEVILLE SCENES.

There is a stage at the back of the dining-room, and the concert is varied by vaudeville scenes without extra charge.

The course to-day was a vegetable soup, a slice of delicious sturgeon, the best of Volga fishes, half a spring chicken broiled, on toast, apple pie and coffee.

Everything was good, from the food to the music.

The waiters were dressed in white. They had white smocks, long gloves and the thighs bound in at the waist with red silk sashes and white cotton trousers.

The most of them were old and all were bearded. My waiter was about 40. He had a shiny bald head and great red whiskers which covered his chest like the beard of a patriarch.

The eating is good everywhere in Russia, and I have yet to stop at a hotel where I have not been well served.

The part of the fair I have described is mostly wholesale.

Of the millions of dollars' worth of business done 50 per cent of it is in large quantities.

The goods are brought here and exchanged, not sold by sample.

The retail stores are interesting. They are largely in bazaars or passages, hundreds of stores being under one roof, which is lighted from above.

They are more like bazaars than our retail establishments, being long lines of booths filled with goods separated from one another by very thin walls.

The largest of these bazaars is the Gumbi Dom, which is in the center of the fair.

It covers several acres and has passages through it this way and that.

There are also smaller bazaars devoted to Asia, South Russia, and the states along the Volga and about the Caspian Sea.

In going through the fair I found but few American articles.

There is some of our hardware, but the Germans have ten packages to our one and the Russians have twenty to our one.

American goods are nothing, and this is so in nearly all branches of trade. It would be the United States to establish a sample and sales room here to be kept open while the fair lasts.

There is a big opening for all kinds of tools and especially for pumps, harvesters and heavy farming machinery.

I saw some graphophones and a few of our sewing machines, but as a rule American goods are almost nowhere.

The great bulk of the products are Russian, many of them being made in the small factories of the provinces, which are found in all parts of the Empire.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Copyright, 1903, by F. G. Carpenter.

Colonial Dames Save Old Powder Magazine.

South Carolina Landmark Built Before 1715 Will Be Preserved for All Time.

Special Correspondence of The Sunday Republic.
Charleston, S. C., Aug. 12.—The South Carolina Society of Colonial Dames has proved its right to existence as a patriotic organization by its recent purchase of the old powder magazine nearly 200 years ago as "The Old Powder Magazine."

Of this extremely interesting building nothing seems to be recorded as to the exact date of its erection.

In a map of Charleston published in 1715 it is spoken of as "The Old Powder Magazine." An examination of the interior is much more suggestive of a dungeon prison. It is built of brick and is about 30 feet by 25 feet. The walls are nearly 3 feet thick.

Inside the center is supported by a massive brick arch, which is clearly shown in the photograph.

As you enter the building, on your left are two square openings cut through the thick wall and apparently once used as windows, but these have been closed up by two rows of brick and mortar for more than a hundred years.

Another opening higher up and nearly opposite the entrance had also been similarly closed. At the extreme right is a door of massive iron bars crossed like lattice work. The bell which closes this door is very curious, being 3 feet long and big and round in proportion.

It requires a strong man to close and belt the door.

In the Commons House of Assembly in 1776 an act for building a powder magazine on Charleston Neck provided:

"That as soon as the said magazine are finished the powder received shall come the powder now in the magazine at Charleston to be removed thither, and that from thenceforth the said magazine at Charleston shall be no more occupied as such."

The war with England coming on so soon, however, it was continued in use, until during the siege of Charleston a big shell burst within a few feet of it. The powder around there was then removed to safer quarters and the magazine abandoned.

Mr. Charles Fraser, the well-known South Carolina antiquarian, in his little book "Reminiscences of Charleston," speaking of the abandonment of the magazine says:

"There were two half-powder left in it, which, no doubt, had been removed from the wall of the Assembly on the breaking out of the Revolution, as being symbols of royal authority."

They were the full-length portraits of George I and his Queen in their robes of majesty. I first saw them about the year 1880, huddling face to face against the wall, with an old coach wheel pressing on them and covered with dust.

"My recollection of them is that they were admirably selected, and, no doubt, the work of Sir Godfrey Kneller."

"I went there again some years afterwards, with permission to see them in the hope of restoring them; but some base treasurer had in the meantime cut the

FAIR Stage Beginners Who Will Be Seen In St. Louis Next Season.



LILLIAN HOWARD, WHO IS SOON TO MAKE HER DEBUT IN "MR. BLUE BEARD."

DAISEY DOBRINER, WHO WILL PLAY A PART IN "THE SLEEPING BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."

MAY EVANS, WHO WILL BE SEEN IN "THE BILLIONAIRE."

IDA MILTON, WHO WILL APPEAR IN "THE ROGER BROTHERS IN LONDON."

carvings out of the frames, and no trace has been ever had of them since."

Some years after the Revolutionary War the magazine and the land in its vicinity became private property.

During this period the building was divided into two parts of rooms by filling in the arches with a layer of brick and plaster. One side was long used by the owner, Mr. Gabriel Mangault, as a storage place for his wines. In the other side a printing press once flourished, and there also a carpenter's shop and other industries have from time to time housed themselves.

The earthquake of 1886 cracked the wall on one side, and since then it has been quite dilapidated.

In March, 1892, the president of the South Carolina Society of the Colonial Dames called a special meeting of that society to propose to them that the society should buy and preserve the Colonial relic.

The proposition was heartily approved by the society, and a committee was at once

appointed and went immediately from the meeting to see the building and make an offer for its purchase.

The examination of the title and other tedious delays of the law occupied more than a year's time, but finally, in June, 1892, the amount, \$1,000, was paid over to the Mangault heirs and the building became the property of the South Carolina Society of the Colonial Dames.

As the society disbanded in June for the summer months, nothing further was then done about the magazine.

In November a committee was appointed to repair the building and make it habitable for the society to use as a meeting place. Some of the old red tiles were restored to the roof, and the two little peach trees which had taken root and blossomed among the tiles were removed.

The society proposes to use the building for its business and social meetings.

By gift it owns a few pieces of handsome mahogany furniture, which will, no doubt, be added to by the members from time to time, now that they own a home of their own.

There will also be a health and beauty department, in charge of an expert of recognized ability; a culinary department; a page of fashions, with a daily four-column illustration; two columns of literary, musical and theatrical comment, questions and answers; and a serial story.

The general news of the day will be given in condensed form, and a prominent position will be given to club, society and philanthropic work, and all the news of the world of interest to ambitious women.

The paper will be illustrated by first-class artists, and it is intended to print on a better quality of paper than that ordinarily used. It will be illustrated with half-tone cuts of prominent local women, but pictures will not ordinarily be used.

It will be sold for 1 cent a copy, and there will be a Sunday edition. It will start with an issue of 100 copies.

There will also be a health and beauty department, in charge of an expert of recognized ability; a culinary department; a page of fashions, with a daily four-column illustration; two columns of literary, musical and theatrical comment, questions and answers; and a serial story.

The general news of the day will be given in condensed form, and a prominent position will be given to club, society and philanthropic work, and all the news of the world of interest to ambitious women.

The paper will be illustrated by first-class artists, and it is intended to print on a better quality of paper than that ordinarily used. It will be illustrated with half-tone cuts of prominent local women, but pictures will not ordinarily be used.

It will be sold for 1 cent a copy, and there will be a Sunday edition. It will start with an issue of 100 copies.

At Last Women Are to Have a Daily Paper.

New Eastern Venture Promises to Be of Interest to Feminine Readers Everywhere.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

A new venture in journalism is to be launched this fall, if all goes well, upon the part of a group of newspapermen. This will be a daily paper for and by women.

Women are not novices in journalism, and plenty of monthly and weekly publications have been run by the fair sex. Chicago has even talked about a daily women's paper, but it is said to be still waiting for money enough to get it started.

Meantime plans have been almost perfected in New York for the establishment of a daily newspaper for women, and the first issue has been promised on November 2. The fact has been known for some time to several hundred women, but the secret has been well kept and has only just come out.

The name of the new publication will be made known only when it appears upon the title page of the first issue. It has not yet been selected, and in order to get the one which will best express the aims and feminine character of the paper a prize of \$200 will shortly be offered to the woman who hits upon the most appropriate designation.

The paper is to be almost exclusively a feminine enterprise. There will be a "copy boy," it is stated, not a "copy girl," and the financial and mechanical departments will be in the hands of men; but all the editors and reporters will be women. There will be twenty-five women in the editorial department, besides many outside women contributors.

Aside from its femininity the most original feature of the paper will be its employment agency. The sum of ten department will be to furnish reliable servants, whose references will have been duly investigated before their advertisement will be allowed to appear in the "Help Wanted" column, and who will be encouraged to do their best, by giving for service or service with one employer and for general efficiency.

There will also be a health and beauty department, in charge of an expert of recognized ability; a culinary department; a page of fashions, with a daily four-column illustration; two columns of literary, musical and theatrical comment, questions and answers; and a serial story.

The general news of the day will be given in condensed form, and a prominent position will be given to club, society and philanthropic work, and all the news of the world of interest to ambitious women.

The paper will be illustrated by first-class artists, and it is intended to print on a better quality of paper than that ordinarily used. It will be illustrated with half-tone cuts of prominent local women, but pictures will not ordinarily be used.

It will be sold for 1 cent a copy, and there will be a Sunday edition. It will start with an issue of 100 copies.

There will also be a health and beauty department, in charge of an expert of recognized ability; a culinary department; a page of fashions, with a daily four-column illustration; two columns of literary, musical and theatrical comment, questions and answers; and a serial story.

The general news of the day will be given in condensed form, and a prominent position will be given to club, society and philanthropic work, and all the news of the world of interest to ambitious women.

The paper will be illustrated by first-class artists, and it is intended to print on a better quality of paper than that ordinarily used. It will be illustrated with half-tone cuts of prominent local women, but pictures will not ordinarily be used.

It will be sold for 1 cent a copy, and there will be a Sunday edition. It will start with an issue of 100 copies.

There will also be a health and beauty department, in charge of an expert of recognized ability; a culinary department; a page of fashions, with a daily four-column illustration; two columns of literary, musical and theatrical comment, questions and answers; and a serial story.